

INFORMATION REPORT

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10/3/52

Czechoslovakia/Poland

DATE DISTR

Czechoslovak-Polish Border Controls in the Polubny-Harrachov Area

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1. As of January 1951 all passengers debarking from trains at the railroad station at Polubny-Korenov were required to show ID cards. If a passenger had his ID card, he was allowed to proceed and was not asked his destination. Passengers who did not have ID cards were detained by the SNB, no matter what reason they gave, and were sometimes required to state their names and to pay a small fine.
2. According to an SNB member from the Polubny (051/G36) - Harrachov (051/G46) area, one SNB man was stationed every six kilometers along the Czechoslovak side of the border in this area. The SNB rarely went on patrol in pairs. The SNB members were armed with SIGs of a new type (sic).
3. The Polish side of the border in the Polubny-Harrachov area was heavily guarded by Polish Army troops. The border in this area is formed by the Jizera river, which is bounded on both sides by deep forests. The Czechoslovak side was practically uninhabited, and there were no abandoned houses there. On the Polish side, which was heavily populated during the time when the Germans occupied the area, there were many houses, mostly abandoned or ruined. Some of these houses had been repaired, and Polish Army troops were billeted in them.
4. When someone escaped from Poland into Czechoslovakia, a Polish Army officer obtained permission from the SNB in Polubny to search for him in Czechoslovak territory. The officer and a formation of Polish soldiers, accompanied by two or three SNB men, conducted house searches in Polubny and searched the forests on the Czechoslovak side of the border. The Polish soldiers took along two or three dogs and were armed with rifles; the officer was armed with a pistol. Once a Polish soldier was observed to have an SIG of the kind used by Red Army soldiers in 1945. Gamekeepers and people working in the forests on the Czechoslovak side of the border were informed of the presence of Polish search parties, even though they did not take part in the search.
5. Polish soldiers attended dances on Saturday nights in Polubny and Harrachov. They seemed to be on good terms with the local population.

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